

1. (currently amended) A method for communicating of storing and retrieving voice-messages with stored attachments to a voice mail subscriber using a voice mail system, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a receiver of the called party voice mail subscriber a voice-mail message;

receiving at the receiver of a calling party a prompt to leave an attachment to the voice mail message and a location for the attachment,

receiving at a receiver of the called party voice mail subscriber a the location of an the attachment to the voice-mail message;

storing at a receiver of the called party voice mail subscriber the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message;

providing access for the called party voice mail subscriber to the voice-mail message,

receiving at the receiver of the called party voice mail subscriber a prompt to access the attachment,

detecting by the called party the attachment to the voice-mail message; and , as a separate step,

providing access for the called party voice mail subscriber to the attachment to the voice-mail message,

wherein the stored attachment is separate from the voice-mail message and is stored at a location separate from the receiver.

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3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of receiving the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes verbally receiving the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message.
4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes receiving the location via a keypad.
5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the keypad includes any one of a mobile terminal keypad, a computer keyboard or a terminal touch screen.
6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes a uniform resource identifier (URI).
7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes an address on a public network.

8. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes an address on a private network.

9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein after said step of receiving a location of the attachment to the voice-mail message, said method comprises the further step of determining a content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the determined content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes at least one of text, audio, graphics and video.

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27. (currently a,emded) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message comprises the sub-steps sub-step of:

~~providing a prompt to allow access to the attachment to the voice-mail message; and~~

receiving an indication whether access to the attachment to the voice-mail message is desired.

28. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message comprises the sub-step of playing said attachment without requiring a proceed-to-play indication from the user.

29. (previously presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein said step of receiving the indication that access to the attachment is desired includes receiving an authorized security credential.

30. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein said step of receiving an authorized security credential includes verbally receiving an authorized security credential.

31. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein said step of receiving an authorized security credential includes receiving an authorized security credential that is entered by a keypad.

32. (previously presented) The method of Claim 31, wherein the keypad includes any one of a mobile terminal keypad, a computer keyboard or a terminal touch-screen.

33. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message includes the sub-steps of:

determining that a content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message is in audio form,

retrieving the attachment from the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message, and

providing an audio playback of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

34. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message includes the sub-steps of:

determining that a content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message is in text form,

retrieving the attachment from the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message,

converting the attachment from text form to audio form, and

providing an audio playback of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

35. (previously presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein said step of receiving an the indication whether access to the attachment to the voice-mail message is desired includes a sub-step of receiving a preferred mode for receiving access to the attachment to the voice-mail message.

36. (previously presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein said sub-step of receiving a preferred mode for receiving access to the attachment to the voice-mail message includes receiving at least one of a facsimile number, a network address and an electronic-mail (e-mail) address.

37. (previously presented) The method of Claim 36, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message includes transmitting the attachment to the voice-mail message to at least one of the received facsimile number, the network address and the electronic-mail (email) address.

38. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message includes the sub-steps of:

determining that a content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes any one of audio, video, text, programs, spreadsheets and graphical content;

extracting any non-audio-type content;

converting the extracted content into audio form; and

providing an audio playback of audio content included in the attachment to the voicemail message and converted content of the voice-mail message.

39. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message includes the sub-steps of:

determining that the attachment to the voice-mail message includes a compound document; and

providing access to portions of the compound document that may be rendered in audio form.

40. (previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein said step of providing access to the portions of the compound document that may be

rendered in audio form includes the sub-step of providing an option of listening to at least one of the portions of the compound document.

41. (previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein said step of providing access to the portions of the compound document that may be rendered in audio form includes the sub-steps of:

- identifying portions of the compound document that represent textual information;
- converting the portions of the compound document identified as representing textual information into audio form; and
- providing audio playback of the converted portions.

42. (previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein said step of providing access to the portions of the compound document that may be rendered in audio form includes the sub-steps of:

- identifying portions of the compound document that are in audio form; and
- providing audio playback of the portions of the compound document identified as being in audio form.

43. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail system includes the sub-steps of:

prompting the ~~called party~~ voice mail subscriber to input commands to select specified portions of the attachment for retrieval; receiving the commands for the specified portions of the attachment; and playing back the selected portions of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

44. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail messages includes providing the location of the attachment to the voicemail message.

45. (previously presented) The method of Claim 44, wherein the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes an address in the form of at least one of a URI address, a public network address and a private network address.

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